BUSINESS / B1
Foreign investments treble in 1st half but pale compared to neighbors

NEWS / A4
Pinay accused in Singapore murder incommunicado

METRO / A23
Terror angle ruled out in ammo dump blast in Taguig

WORLD / A12
US disaster agency chief quits under siege over response to Katrina

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Wednesday, September 14, 2005 • 36 pages | vol. 20 | no. 278

website: www.inq7.net

SWS survey says 74% believe Noli can be No. 1



[illegible]

Gov't seeks US funding for Cha-cha, paper shows

By Philip C. Tubeza

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO'S administration is seeking US funding for its plans to amend the Constitution and shift the country to a parliamentary system, according to an agreement signed by National Security [illegible]

# FBI arrests Lacson aide for espionage



MICHAEL RAY AQUINO: Who was he spying for?



SEN. PING LACSON: Don't politicize issue.

## Probers found 101 RP-related documents

By Volt Contreras, Margaux Ortiz and Armand Nocum

MICHAEL RAY AQUINO, A FORmer high police official indicted for the murder of publicist Salvador "Bubby" Dacer and his driver in November 2000, was arrested Saturday in New York on espionage charges.

Also arrested with Aquino, a close associate of Sen. Panfilo Lacson, was a Federal Bureau of Investigation intelligence analyst.

[illegible]

[illegible]

## Lacson expects gov't to link him to case

By TJ Burgonio, Norman Bordadora and Christine O. Avendaño

OPPOSITION SEN. PANFILO "Ping" Lacson [illegible]

LACSON / A22



INQUIRER'S FILIPINO OF THE YEAR in 1993, Haydee Yorac [illegible]

## *Remembered with love and thanksgiving*

HAYDEE YORAC, FORMER CHAIR OF THE Commission on Elections and the Presidential Commission on Good Government, died [illegible]

## *'Let justice be done though the heavens fall'*

By Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

UNTIL THE END, HAYDEE YORAC'S life was marked by her favorite Latin maxim [illegible]

[illegible]



ARMORY BLAST Accident or terror attack? An investigation is under way into the mysterious explosion that rocked the armory inside Camp Bagong Diwa in Taguig City Monday night. The blast destroyed vehicles and caused debris on houses nearby. (Story on Page A23)

## Bishops warn vs excessive politicking; Palace elated

By Christian V. Esguerra

IN THE FIRST OFFICIAL REACTION TO THE [illegible]

[illegible]

## GMA reaches out to business groups

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

NEW YORK (MANILA)—[illegible]

[illegible]




BIG APPLE BITES: [illegible]

WEATHER FORECAST

Second FRONT PAGE

# 'Jueteng' renegades persist

## Illegal logging continues in 14 regions – Defensor



DEFENSOR

### Illegal logs

### Submission of resolution

"RENEGADE" JUETENG OPERators in at least four Luzon provinces have ignored the Arroyo administration's Sept. 15 deadline to totally eradicate the illegal numbers game.

### 'Jueteng hot spots'

### Job opportunities

# Noli appeals for ceasefire while GMA presides over Security Council

# OFW dollars don't reach poor—ADB





# Pinay in Singapore slay incommunicado

# Jane was friendly, generous

# Stat exec denies fudging trade figures

A SENIOR official yesterday denied suggestions that the government had cooked up its trade figures for 2002-2004, which were then revised last month to reveal a far worse picture of the Philippine economy than first thought.

"Revision of official statistics is standard fare, recognized and appreciated by those who truly know," said Romulo Virola, secretary general of the National Statistical Coordination Board.

According to new figures issued by the National Statistics Office last month, the 2004 trade deficit was 4.36 billion dollars rather than the previously stated 713 million dollars.

The 2003 deficit was revised to 4.24 billion dollars from the previously given 1.27 billion dollars while for 2002, it was revised to 4.03 billion dollars from 218 million dollars.

In 2003 the government had also revised its previously released import figures for the three years to 2002.

"Concerns were raised, quite understandably, about the revision of foreign trade statistics released recently," Virola said in a statement.

"Some of these concerns were articulated objectively but some, unfortunately, degenerated into convoluted accusations about cheating by government statisticians," he added.

Virola said the new 2002-2004 trade data came from a revised methodology following studies by the central bank's monetary board on the proper valuation of exports and imports, particularly of 15 electronics companies that account for much of the country's electronics exports.

"These statistics are generally released based on incomplete data/reports. Statistical offices used to be and still are being ridiculed on the long time lag in the release of statistics," the official acknowledged. AFP

# Gov't peace panel back in Norway for real score on NDF



# This is where they put me, says RP envoy in NY



# Used car imports in Subic still worry local assemblers

# New raps for Gen. Garcia

## Corrections

# D. Gregorio; 86

# Lawyer wants Dinky to testify for Erap in trial

# Remembered with love and thanksgiving

### 9-day mourning

### Last press conference

### Favorite daughter

### No compromise

### Modern-day hero

### Senators heap praise

### Great loss to coco farmers

# 'Let justice be done though the heavens fall'

### Impressive record

### 11th PCGG chair

### A natural

### 'Very private'

### 'Happy'

### 'Exceptional integrity'

# New aircons eyed for sweltering Naia2 terminal in time for summer

# Garci not in NY or New Jersey






# Bishops warn vs excessive …




# Gov't seeking US funding for Cha-cha …



# AFP: Give Adan a chance

# The WORLD

# US disaster agency chief quits

NEW ORLEANS—THE HEAD OF THE US DISASTER agency resigned on Monday in the face of unrelenting criticism over Washington's response to Hurricane Katrina as the confirmed death toll from the calamity passed 500.



BROWN

# Offensive vs Iraq rebels intensified

# Wheelchair-bound man hijacks Colombian plane



# UN world summit threatened with failure, says US

# Blackout hits Los Angeles



# Tensions linger in Belfast after riots

# Indonesian militant sentenced to death

# Palestinians celebrate first day of freedom









PALESTINIANS collect valuables from the burning former Jewish settlement of Kfar Darom in Gaza strip Sept. 11.




# Wealthy Norway swings to the left

## Astronomers detect most distant cosmic explosion

INQUIRER

# Opinion




## Discord

EDITORIAL

TO THE POPE BELONGS THE AUTHORITY TO create, divide and merge dioceses, and to appoint their bishops. [illegible]

## Ex-VP, solon urge civil disobedience

AS I SEE IT

*Neal H. Cruz*

[illegible]

## Missing links

THERE'S THE RUB

*Conrado de Quiros*

[illegible]

# Waking up a sleeping tiger

ANALYSIS



*Amando Doronila*

# Dilìman's birds

PINOY KASI



*Michael L. Tan*

# Islam and democracy

AT LARGE



*Rina Jimenez-David*

# Culture's impact on industry

LOOKING BACK



*Ambeth R. Ocampo*

## Lonely and forgotten soldier deserves better

LETTERS

## MLQ's legacy vs GMA's 'Hello, Garci'

## P721B out of P1.05T budget to be used for payment of national debt




## Getting to Know Fiber




## False representatives, genuine 'trapos'



# Across the NATION

# Bicol cordoned off due to coco pest

PILI, CAMARINES SUR—THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE has cordoned off agricultural products' land and sea routes going in and out of Bicol to spare the region from the fast spreading new pest that infects coconut trees in Southern Tagalog, Central Luzon and Metro Manila.




## ROUNDUP

### Wildlife sanctuary declared

### Village chief killed

### Village exec slain

### Marijuana uprooted

### Co-ops get funds

### Tilapia processing

# Hike in terminal fees looms in ports nationwide



MANGROVE WALK

# Man, brother charged with rape-slay of girl, 13

# Doc, Pacquiao fan, dies after watching idol's boxing match



INQUIRER Northern Luzon

# War veterans yearn for recognition



BALAJO

# Batac or Libingan burial?

By Cristina Arzadon



FORMER first lady Imelda Marcos kisses the glass crypt containing the preserved body of her late husband, Ferdinand Marcos, inside a mausoleum in Batac, Ilocos Norte.

## A million signatures

## Sacred

# GMA reaches out to business groups




### Top 3 goals

### Clashing business interests

### Protests downplayed

### A good passport

### 5 topics

### Meeting with big business

### $100-M business

# Health experts warn of AIDS explosion in RP

### Culture of silence

### Changing attitudes

# GMA tells De Castro: You're in charge, OK?

[illegible]

## SWS survey ...

[illegible]

### Caretaker

[illegible]

### Contrast

[illegible]

### Ratings rise

[illegible]

# FBI arrests Lacson aide for espionage

## Aquino faces string of cases–from murder to rebellion

### 'Strategic planner'

### Rosebud's charges

### IN THE KNOW

### Change in leadership

### Consul's report

### Officials No. 1 and 2

### FBI seeking NBI help

### FBI classified documents

### 8-week surveillance

### Debts amounting to $500,000

### Destabilization plot?

# Lacson expects government to link him to case



WYCOCO: 3 officials recipients



LACSON: Going in my direction

### Caught by surprise

### Extradition

### Info available to everyone

### File spying

# Terror act ruled out in armory blast

By Jocelyn R. Uy

### Buildings damaged

### Proof

### Controlled area

### Half buried

### 24 unaccounted




POLICEMEN (above) walk in the place where the NCRPO ammo dump used to be.



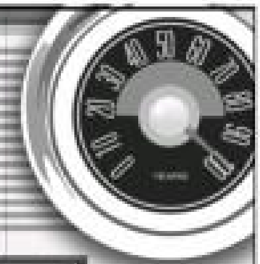
## METROBRIEFS

### Junk shops warned



### Curfew for Navotas kids

### UP Eco homecoming







# METRO

# BF gates open once more

By Jocelyn R. Uy

[illegible]



POLICEMEN guard one of BF Homes' gates in Parañaque City after it was reopened to outsiders.

## Fires hit Pasig, San Juan 'classroom'

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

[illegible]

## MMDA traffic chief, 13 others face sanctions

By Tarra V. Quismundo

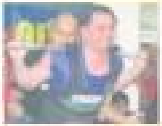
[illegible]

# SPORTS

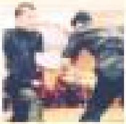
## WHAT'S INSIDE



- A stunner in more ways than one A26
- Jaguars give new mentor Cezar stirring welcome A26



- Eddie Torres sets new Philippine Masters' record A28



# P'foods battles Red Bull in PBA season opener

AFTER 17 YEARS, PUREFOODS WILL begin its season without former franchise player Alvin Patrimonio. Red Bull Barako, meanwhile, can't be faulted for looking like the 2002 UAAP champion Ateneo Blue Eagles.



PATRIMONIO

# Lina taunts POC, invites NBC cagers to RP pool

23rd SEA Games

# Equipment, venues ready for Games

# A stunner in more ways than one





# Jaguars give new mentor Cezar stirring welcome

# Lacuna badminton registration begins



# RP taekwondo jins target overall title

# GMA should've declared a holiday

BARE EYE





LGBA 7-Stag Derby slated at Big Dome

# Business



# Foreign investments trebled in 1st half

## But amount pales compared with inflows to Asian neighbors

FRESH FOREIGN DIRECT INvestments lured by the Philippines nearly tripled to $495 million in the first semester from $170 million a year ago, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas reported yesterday.

## LPG use in transport gets push



THE AUTOGAS program is seen to offer a welcome respite from high fuel prices to motorists.

## WHAT'S INSIDE



## Currencies

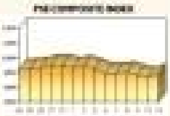


PESO-DOLLAR RATE

## Stock Market

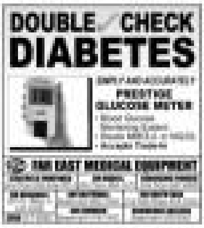
Shares close 1.40% higher

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



# PNOC plans to undertake 7 hydropower projects

# Gov't bids out M-Gas property













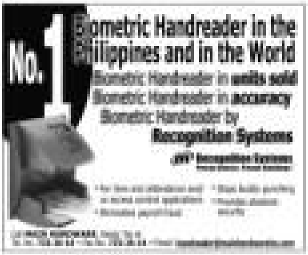


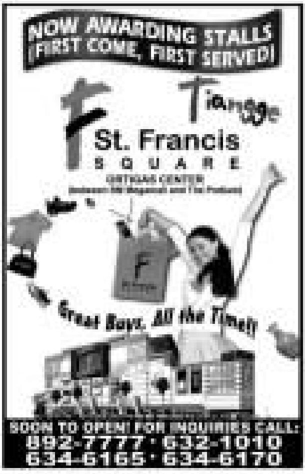

# Revolt of the Hacienderos

**COCKTAILS**

*Victor C. Agustin*





# LPG use in transport . . .

# Foreign investments trebled . . .




## Acer products now available at much more affordable rates!

# PLDT gets nod to drop IDD rates

# Cocktales

## Money-go-round

## Heard through the grapevine





# Bid to place pre-need firms under IC pushed

THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS HAS backed a proposal to tighten regulations on pre-need companies by placing the sector under the wings of the Insurance Commission.

"Since the operations of pre-need companies are similar to the operations of insurance companies, the IC can be an effective regulator and supervisor of pre-need companies," said Diwa Guinigundo, BSP officer-in-charge.

Earlier, the Securities and Exchange Commission proposed that the BSP regulate the pre-need sector. But the proposal was opposed by the banking regulator itself.

Guinigundo yesterday said in a statement that under the BSP's charter, its supervisory and regulatory authority is limited to banking institutions and quasi-banks, including their subsidiaries and affiliates engaged in allied activities.

Guinigundo said the BSP agreed that the reorganization of the IC, as well as the streamlining of its structure and operations and upgrading of human resources, would enable the commission to exercise supervision over the pre-need sector.

He said the BSP was likewise supportive of the provisions in the proposed 'Pre-Need Code of 2005,' rationalizing the operations of these companies, particularly the fit and proper rule, as well as more stringent regulations on independent directors, trust funds, actuary and actuarial reserve liabilities.

Pre-need plans refer to products that cover foreseeable expenditures in the future such as retirement funds, education or even funeral arrangements.

Some pioneering players of the pre-need sector recently have been rocked by problems. In the case of education plans, their viability was adversely affected by the liberalization of tuition fees collected by private schools.

*Doris C. Dumlao*

# Lepanto defaults on debts, says Australia bank

AUSTRALIAN PRIVATE BANK NM ROTHSCHILD & Sons Ltd. is claiming that the Philippine firm Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. has defaulted on some of its hedging contract debts.

Lepanto said it received a notice from NM Rothschild that "an event of default" exists with regards to its hedging contracts covering a total of 4,873 ounces of gold.

Rothschild also told Lepanto it was terminating all outstanding transactions with the mining firm involving 92,873 ounces.

The Philippine gold producer last month filed a petition with the Makati Regional Trial Court to declare its hedging transactions with NM Rothschild null and void.

Lepanto had asked to void its contract with NM Rothschild after talks with the private bank bogged down.

Lepanto's transaction with Rothschild involve monetary settlements equivalent to 97,746 ounces of gold.

"We have received notice from Rotschild demanding that we comply with our obligations covering a total of 4,873 ounces of gold, with a threat to declare an event of default in case of our failure to comply," said Odette Javier Lepanto, assistant corporate secretary Lepanto. "This is already the subject of the case that has been filed (with the Makati RTC)."

Lepanto earlier said it has fully repaid its $30 million loan from foreign banks Rothschild and Dresdner. As of last year, Lepanto had forwarded gold contracts to sell 169,043 ounces of gold at an average price of $295 per ounce. These will mature in 2005 worth $24 million based on marked-to-market prices.

Also, Lepanto told the Philippine Stock Exchange that it has ended a protracted labor dispute at its minesite in Mankayan, Benguet.

*Elizabeth L. Sanchez*




# LifeStyle

# Nocturnal Manila (Part 1)

Blame it on the call centers mushrooming all over the city, blame it on insomnia—Manila after dark is becoming more and more alive every day. To celebrate the nocturnal lifestyle, 2bU! highlights different places that keep their doors open for your convenience 24 hours a day, seven days a week. If intense burger craving hits you in the middle of the night, no worries, fast food chains like Jollibee and McDonald's are keeping their crew up to serve your favorite goodies. You want yummy pizza to enjoy with your "Desperate Housewives" marathon? Head over to Cost U Less. Are you aching to be pampered but you have no time during the day? The Westin Sports Club and Spa is ready to offer all kinds of treatments any time you want. If you just can't get enough gym time, with Planet Infinity, you can continue your workout while the rest of the country sleeps.

This is just the beginning. Next week's issue will be packed with even more 24/7 goodness.

But for people who still like sleeping early, this week we also have fun promos that you can join (no, you don't have to stay up late) and a feature on ultra-fab feminine brand Urban&Co.

Enjoy!



# Fast chow, 24/7

THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT fast food that makes us feel relaxed and steady. Even better, in the past years, burger and fast-food joints have checked out their "operating hours" signs and decided to go round-the-clock. And fresh grads in call centers looking for grub in the wee hours of the morning, it makes good business sense for food places to open their doors to the graveyard market.

## Chowking



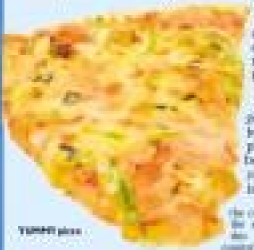


# Post-midnight pizza and more

Aside from being a 24-hour grocery, Cost U Less is now another early-morning food place you should add to your list.

By Zee Castro

IF YOU SUDDENLY GET A craving for pizza post midnight, head to Cost U Less in C5 Libis. The shopping warehouse offers more than just bundles of grocery goods.



YUMMY pizza

# Fast chow, 24/7



# A gym buff's ultimate domain



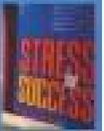
ENDLESS rows



## Ungodly hours

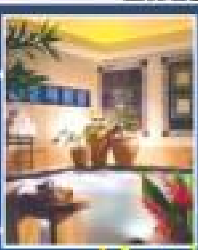
## Wellness center

## Spa, lounge

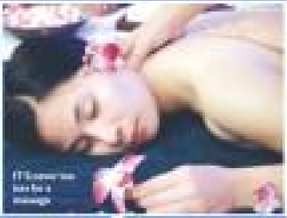






Thanks to The Westin Sports Club and Spa, which stays open 24 hours, getting pampered in the middle of the night is no longer unheard of



# Midnight Massage